Northeast Focus

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Sellers said he spoke to a representative of ParentsConnected Inc. several months ago about the seminars.

"I think my generation and even younger parents don't know all they should know (about the Internet)," he said. "We thought this might be a good way to help parents ask questions and be able to use the Internet in a safe way.

"If parents have questions about computer use and other things available on the Internet, I think this would be helpful. A lot of kids know more about computers and the Internet than their parents. I'm hoping to close the 'digital divide' that you hear about in the media."

Sellers said he wants to make sure parents and children are "aware of the use of the Internet and its benefits."

ParentsConnected Inc. is about a year old. It is a subsidiary of ThoughtSource Inc., a company founded in 1998 that provides educational products.

All Jackson seminars are from 6-7:30 p.m. The schedule includes:

- Callaway High School, 601 Beasley Road, Oct. 30.
- Wingfield High School, 1985 Scanlon Drive, Nov. 1.
- Murrah High School, 1400 Murrah Drive, Nov. 2.
- Provine High School, 2400 Robinson Road. Nov. 3.

Topics include "What is the Internet?" "Logging On," "Surfing the Net," "Objectionable and Potentially Dangerous Material," "Cyber Stalkers" and the "Benefits of Family Internet Use."

"Once parents learn how easy it is to access the Net, they can realize how much fun it can be and how vitally important it can be as a bond between parents and children," said Kaila Colbin, the company's chief operating officer. "Starting is the hardest part, and this is where the concept of a bus tour helps in achieving our goals."

Colbin said the tour is sponsored by several companies, including Hewlett-Packard, InternetAdvisory.com, ClubPhoto.com, TeVeo.com and TheODG.com.

"These sponsors allow us to

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Seminars focus on Internet benefits

By Maybelle G. Cagle
Special to Focus

ParentsConnected Inc. will present four free Internet educational seminars in the Jackson Public Schools Oct. 30-Nov. 3 to help parents and children form a relationship with each other and the Internet.

"To my knowledge, the Jackson Public School District hasn't done anything like this before," said deputy superintendent Ron Sellers, who is coordinating the seminars.